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MEASURES TO STRENGTHEN INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION IN NUCLEAR, RADIATION AND WASTE SAFETY

(c) STUDY OF THE RADIOLOGICAL SITUATION AT THE ATOLLS OF MURUROA AND FANGATAUFA

Draft resolution recommended by the Committee of the Whole

The General Conference,

(a) Recalling that on 22 September 1995, in resolution GC(39)/RES/23 entitled "Nuclear Testing", it called on all States concerned "to fulfil their responsibilities to ensure that sites where nuclear tests have been conducted are monitored scrupulously and to take appropriate steps to avoid adverse impacts on health, safety and the environment as a consequence of such nuclear testing",

(b) Taking note of document GC(42)/INF/3, which reports on the recently completed Study of the Radiological Situation at the Atolls of Mururoa and Fangataufa (the Study) undertaken by the Secretariat at the request of the Government of France, and particularly of the Executive Summary of the Main Report on the Study, of the discussion in the Board of Governors on the Study, and of the "Conclusions and Closing Remarks" of the President of the Conference organized by the Agency on the Study and held in Vienna from 30 June to 3 July 1998,

(c) Noting with appreciation that the Government of France requested the Study and supported it unreservedly throughout, and

(d) Recalling that the South Pacific Forum and Member States of the Agency had called for such a study to be carried out and taking note of the views expressed in August 1998 in the communiqué issued in Pohnpei at the twenty-ninth meeting of the South Pacific Forum,

1. Expresses appreciation of the effort put into the Study by the Chair and members of the International Advisory Committee, by experts and laboratories of numerous States, by the Secretariat of the Agency and by other international organizations;

2. Welcomes the Study's conclusions that (i) there will be no radiation health effects attributable to the residual radioactive material at the two atolls which could be either medically diagnosed in an individual or epidemiologically discerned in a group of people, (ii) the expected radiation dose rates and modes of exposure at the atolls are such that no effects on biota population groups could arise, (iii) no remedial action at the atolls is needed on radiological protection grounds, either now or in the future, (iv) no further environmental monitoring at the atolls is needed for purposes of radiological protection and (v) a scientific programme, supplemented by some monitoring of radionuclide levels in the biosphere, might be useful in assuring the public about the continuing radiological safety of the atolls;

3. Emphasizes that those conclusions should not be used in justifying the development and testing of nuclear weapons; and

4. Requests the Director General to report to it, as appropriate, on apposite developments in this area.